

Sinclair Broadcasting is using its television stations to disguise right-wing smears against John Kerry as news. Sinclair Broadcasting's decision to force their stations to air an anti-Kerry documentary days before the election is a clear example of the dangers of media consolidation. Their decision to force their television stations to air untrue attacks about John Kerry is a gross abuse of their position – and constitutes an illegal contribution to the Bush-Cheney 04 campaign.

Sinclair uses the public airwaves free of charge, and is obligated by law to serve the public interest. But when large companies control the airwaves, we get more of what's good for the bottom line and less of what we need for our democracy. This isn't the first time the Sinclair corporate office has compromised the journalistic integrity of its stations. It ordered ABC affiliates not to air a nonpartisan tribute to our fallen U.S. soldiers, fearing the consequences for George W. Bush. And Sinclair and its executives have contributed thousands of dollars to Republican causes – and the CEO has given the maximum donation to Bush-Cheney 04. And as you know, the Democratic National Committee has now filed a formal complaint with the FEC (Federal Election Committee) for this very reason.

Sinclair's actions show why we need to strengthen media ownership rules, not weaken them. They show why the license renewal process needs to involve more than a returned postcard. Thank you.